

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) From the information made available, no fertile lands around IFFCO Phulpur plant have become non-productive due to spreading of untreated chemical waste. Since 1994, no releases of effluent have been made by IFFCO. Phulpur plant as it is almost entirely being treated and recycled for internal use.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Role of Armed Forces

2150. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to define the role of the armed forces and other agencies fighting against terrorism in the country especially in North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the former Director-General of Punjab Police has made demand to this effect and has written a letter to the Prime Minister in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to take a decision on this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The role of the Armed Forces and other agencies fighting against terrorism in the country especially in North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir has already been defined as that of carrying-out counter-insurgency operations and providing security to the people and vital installations in close coordination with the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. No time-frame can be prescribed for final decisions on the various suggestions put-forward.

[English]

Nexus between Bank Scam and LTTE

2151. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intelligence Bureau has discovered links between Indian Bank scam and diversion of money to LTTE of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have taken a note of intelligence report and moved accordingly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Intelligence Bureau has no information about diversion of money of LTTE of Sri Lanka in the Indian Bank Scam. As such, no report in this regard has been furnished by Intelligence Bureau to the Ministry.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Delhi Milk Scheme

2152. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present level of distribution of milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) the wastage on account of leakage in view of poor quality of plastic bags;

(c) the steps proposed to use better quality of bags and extend the distribution network to far flung colonies of North-West Delhi ; and

(d) the measures taken to modernise the Delhi Milk Scheme to augment the production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The present level of distribution of milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme is 3.3 lakh litres per day.

(b) On an average, 100 litres of milk is wasted on account of leakage from plastic bags. However, this leakage is due to various reasons such as voltage fluctuation, machine faults etc.

(c) The percentage of leaky pouches is only about 0.5% which is negligible. DMS is presently supplying milk through 421 milk booths located in North-West Delhi. However, new milk booths are being opened including far-flung areas of North-West Delhi, inhabited by poor people.

(d) Modernisation of the Delhi Milk Scheme is being done continuously by replacing obsolete plants and machinery as and when it is necessary. OMS is presently operating below its installed capacity.

Jumbo Prawn Cultivation

2153. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two member team's report on 'Jumbo Prawn Cultivation' has been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the previous reports presented to the Supreme Court have been sought to be controverted by this two men committee report; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to implement the judgement of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Although no such report has come to the notice of the Government, a Report on assessment of ground realities regarding the impact of Shrimp Farming activities on environment in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu has been recently received, which was prepared by a joint team of 10 experts from the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai and the Central Institute of Brackish-water Aquaculture, Chennai.

The Main conclusions in the report are that the benefits accrued out of shrimp farming activities are for exceeding the negative impacts on the environment and that any action inhibiting the shrimp farming activities would result in complete collapse of the present rural economy in coastal areas. The study further indicates that the negative impacts of shrimp farming are generally of feeble nature and can be easily curbed.

(c) and (d) A Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of its judgement dated 11.12.96. The matter is *sub judice*.

Financial Assistance to Handicapped Persons

2154. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI K.S. RAYUDU :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give financial assistance to the handicapped/totally disabled persons under any scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the details of the provision for reservation for the handicapped persons in Central Government Services;

(e) whether the provision of 3% reservation in the Government jobs for handicapped and disabled is being implemented in the Ministries & Public Sector Undertakings of the Government ;

(f) if so, the number of such persons employed during the last one year and the percentage yet to be filled in out of the left over quota,

(g) whether the Chief Commissioner of Handicapped has since been appointed; and

(h) if so, the date on which he has been appointed and if not, the reasons for not filling the post since February, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) A National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.97 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to provide opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the disabled persons to set up self-employment ventures.

(d) As per Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full participation) Act, 1995, Central Government is required to appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment; (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.

(e) and (f) The required information has been called for from concerned Ministries/Depts. and public sector undertakings.

(g) and (h) Appointment of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at the National level has been made by Government order dated 5.6.97

Mobile Vans under Public Distribution System

2155. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out "Mobile Vans Scheme to supply essential commodities" and to distribute food supply to hilly and other far flung areas in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which this scheme has achieved success, State-wise;

(c) the financial assistance provided to each State for purchase of mobile vans during 1997 till date;

(d) whether some States have failed to avail of this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 103295 Fair Price Shops (FPS) in the former Revamped PDS areas 52932 FPS are covered under Door Step delivery scheme. State-wise position of coverage of FPS under door-step delivery scheme is given in the Statement - I attached.

(c) State-Wise financial assistance provided under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for purchase of mobile vans/trucks during 1997 till date (upto 31.7.97) is given in the Statement-II attached.